



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Filosofia della Politica

2627-1-E4002N007

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#### Learning objectives

##### Knowledge and understanding

knowledge of the basic problems of political philosophy  
understanding of the basic answers to these problems

##### Applying knowledge and understanding

Ability to identify basic problems of political philosophy to concrete social or political phenomena

##### Making judgements

Ability to critically interpret concrete social and political phenomena and give an assessment on them according to philosophical alternatives.

##### Communication skills

Mastering of the technical vocabulary and application to case studies.

##### 6. Learning skills

Ability to follow the perspective developments of philosophical debate on politics.

#### Contents

Part one: foundations of political philosophy.

Part two: merit and meritocracy.

## Detailed program

### Part one: foundations of political philosophy.

The birth of political philosophy in the Greek polis. The political philosophy of Plato. Aristotle's political philosophy. Political philosophy of Hellenism (with particular reference to Stoicism). The Christian world and the political philosophies of Augustine of Hippo and Thomas of Aquino. The Protestant Reform. Contractarianism: Hobbes, Locke, Spinoza, Rousseau, Kant. The French revolution and post-revolutionary liberalism: Constant, Mill, Tocqueville. Hegel and Marx. The current debate: Rawls, contemporary liberalism (Nozick), Communitarianism, the capacity approach (Sen), Michel Foucault's philosophy of power, Jurgen Habermas' political philosophy, Feminism.

### Part two: merit and meritocracy.

The second part applies the philosophical approach and the knowledges acquired to the issue of the so-called "meritocracy". Since in the public debate the "meritocratic" ideal is exalted almost without voices of dissent, the issue is very suitable for showing both the superficiality of this debate and the almost exclusive hegemony within it of "neoliberal" ideals (quotation marks are obligatory), and the intrinsic problematic nature of every political ideal. Through an analysis of the philosophical and sociological literature on the subject it will in fact be seen that the meritocratic ideal is mostly the object of sometimes radical criticism and in any case of cautious and circumstantial evaluations in the light of values such as social justice, freedom, etc.

## Prerequisites

None

## Teaching methods

The class amounts to 63 hours, divided in 31 two-hour lessons and one one-hour lesson.

All of them are theoretical lessons, although all of them will be concluded with an interactive discussion of the issues presented.

9 two-hour lessons will be online lessons.

## Assessment methods

*All students:* Written test. Oral test on demand for positive written test exclusively.

The test consists in one long question (two sides) and one short question (one side long) concerning part one, and one short question (one side) concerning part two.

No intermediate test is scheduled but at the end of every lesson a final discussion and questions addressed by professor will have the function of a daily intermediate test.

It will be tested:

1. Pertinency of the answers to questions

2. Clarity and consequentiality
3. Terminological precision
4. Completeness and text comprehension
5. Depth of issue understanding and originality.

Criteria are in a priority ranking and each is a necessary condition of the following ones. E.g. If the answer is non relevant at all, clarity and logical consequentiality (as much as anything else) cannot be tested.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

Petrucciani S., *Modelli di Filosofia Politica*, Einaudi, 2003

Cingari S., *La meritocrazia*, Ediesse, 2020.

Young, M., *L'avvento della meritocrazia*, Edizioni di Comunità, 2014.

Sandel M., "La Tirannia del merito", Feltrinelli, 2021.

Barrotta P., "I demeriti del merito", Rubattino, 1999.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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